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## TOWN OF SUTTON BOARD OF SELECTMAN

May 11, 2006

Via email [andrea.Nixon@state.ma.us](mailto:andrea.Nixon@state.ma.us)

Andrea Nixon  
Cable Division  
One South Station  
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Comment on Docket Number CTV 06-1

Good Morning Ms. Nixon,

I have read and reread the materials supplied by your office in advance of the hearing and wish to post the following comments:

- Verizon's intention is to break into a potentially lucrative market to which they already have an entrée. Additional competition is applauded for along with local cable franchises and Direct TV the customer will be offered more opportunities.
- Recognizing the difficulties experienced by cable operators, Verizon wishes to achieve market entrée with as little interference, stonewalling or bickering from local governments as possible – hence their efforts to affect a national license to preempt all local or even state oversight. They astutely recognize some local propensities to do just what is feared, and I support their quest for timely, streamlined permitting processes, devoid of as much politics as possible.
- Unfortunately, it is noted that no mention is made of Verizon's recognition, interest, willingness or obligation to provide support for local PEG Access operations. In Sutton, as in many small communities, newspapers provide scant coverage and stringers are non-existent, thus the public is often unaware of local government activities. PEG Access fills this vital role via "Local C-Span": recording and broadcasting multi-member agency meetings. This effort, supported by cable franchise fees and subscriber charges, will be jeopardized if Verizon gains subscribers at the loss of existing cable franchises and does not provide compensating funds as the cable operators' subscriber base diminishes. The only reference found in the documents provided is on page 16, as 207 CMR 10.03, Form of Bill, (2), (a) franchise fees; (b) PEG Access channels and support; and (c) other governmental imposed charges, where all of these charges may be shown on the subscriber's bill. Missing is any recognition or requirement on the part of Verizon to support and maintain the local PEG Access. In the race to accommodate competing technologies, this vital local service must not be allowed to fiscally atrophy. A simple requirement that Verizon must provide towns with cable-equivalent franchise fees and subscriber charges for all customers they gain will at least assure local PEG Access continuance.

Ms. Nixon, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at (508) 865-8720 or via email at [aklepper@town.sutton.ma.us](mailto:aklepper@town.sutton.ma.us). Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this application.

Respectfully,

Allan C. Klepper,  
Interim Town Administrator

Cc: Sutton Board of Selectmen  
Sutton Cable TV  
Charter Communications

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